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Activity Guide

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Jump, Frog, Jump!

ABOUT THE STORY

In this cumulative story, a frog must escape from a variety of threats. A fish, a snake, and a turtle try to eat it, a group of kids try to catch it — how can the frog get away?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Kalan was born in Los Angeles, California, graduated from Claremont Men's College, and completed a master's degree in education at Claremont Graduate School. He is the author of several books for children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Byron Barton is an author-artist with an outstanding list of picture books to his credit.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe how various animals move: flies, snakes, turtles, and frogs. Children can demonstrate the movement for the class. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a frog who must move very quickly.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why does the frog jump the first time?"
- "What happens to the fish?"
- "What is the second threat to the frog?"
- "What is the final threat to the frog?"
- "How does the frog escape from the kids?"
- "When do you think the frog is in the greatest danger? Why?" (*Draw conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Write these action verbs from the story on the chalkboard. Explain that they are the past-tense forms of these irregular verbs:

swam	slid	ate	put
swim	slide	eat	put

Remind children that they form past-tense regular verbs by adding -ed. Tell them that the past-tense forms of irregular verbs are each different and must be memorized. Then ask them to use each of the verbs in a sentence.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Leapfrog

Children can jump like the frog in the story by playing Leapfrog. Explain how to play: one child is on hands and knees, and a second child leaps over the first, using hands to propel him or her, then crouches on hands and knees. A third child leaps over the first and then the second and crouches, and so on until all the children have had a chance to be the leaping frog.

Science: The Frog Life Cycle

Have children work in groups to find out how frogs develop. Ask them to use encyclopedias or other sources to create a step-by-step explanation of frog life, from egg to tadpole to adult frog. Children may illustrate their explanations. Display their finished work in the classroom.

Language Arts: Cumulative Story

Work with children to create a cumulative story for the class. Begin with the statement, "This is the oak tree that stood in the forest." Encourage children to add to the statement, always including the previous lines. A possible next step might be, "This is the acorn that fell from the oak tree that stood in the forest." Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Math: Size Order

Make several paper cutouts of each creature in the story. Have children work in groups to arrange the creatures in their real life size order. Children may come up with several different orderings, depending on the size of the cutouts, since the animals may be of different sizes in real life.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Frogs Online

Have children find photographs of frogs on the Internet using the keywords *frogs* or *amphibians*. Encourage each child to print out a photograph of a frog. Children can label their frogs and collect them in a class frog book.



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¡Salta, Ranita, Salta!

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ABOUT THE STORY

In this cumulative tale, a hungry frog tries to catch a fly while avoiding capture himself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Kalan was born in Los Angeles, California, graduated from Claremont Men's College, and completed a master's degree in education at Claremont Graduate School. He is the author of *Blue Sea*, an ALA Notable Book, and *Rain*, both illustrated by Donald Crews.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Byron Barton is an author-artist with an outstanding list of picture books to his credit. Among them are *Truck Song* and *Building a House*.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

In this book, children will watch a frog who, just as he catches a fly, meets other animals that want to catch him. How will he get away?

(NOTE: Some exercises include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "How did the frog catch the fly?"
- "How did the frog get away from the boys at the end of the story?"
- "In what order do the animals appear?"
- "Were you glad that the frog escaped? What would happen if predators never caught their prey?" (Make predictions)

Vocabulary

Have children match each Spanish word to its English definition. Then they can put the words in each list in alphabetical order.

mosca	turtle
ranita	fish
pez	fly
serpiente	boy
tortuga	frog
niño	snake

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Classroom Pond

Cut out a large pond from blue paper and attach it to a bulletin board. Provide a variety of art materials so that children can recreate the characters in the story. Using tape or glue, attach the animals to the pond, and display the pond in the classroom.

Math: Size Order

Make several paper cutouts of each creature in the story. Have children work in groups to arrange the creature in their real life size order.

Science: Other Amphibians

Have children find out about other amphibians, such as toads and salamanders. Ask them to work in small groups to research the amphibian of their choice and present a brief report to the rest of the class.

Music: Froggy Songs

Children may enjoy hearing songs about frogs. Play recordings of such tunes as "Frog Went A'Courtin'" and "Bein' Green" for the group and talk about the habits of frogs each song describes.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Frog Sounds

Children can hear the actual sounds various types of frogs make by using the keywords frog sounds to find sites on the Internet that offer recordings of frog noises. Have children listen to several such recordings and compare the different sounds frogs make.